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THE APPLICATION OF LARGE NUMBERS  
OF PLEASURE BOATS TO COLLECT SYNOPTIC  
SEA-TRUTH FOR ERTS-1 OVERPASSES

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### SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

In order to interpret and annotate current circulation and suspended sediment concentration maps derived from ERTS-1 digital tapes, the University of Delaware has been collecting water samples and other data from boats and helicopters. Although more widely dispersed water samples can be obtained from a hovering helicopter than from a boat, to further increase the number of samples at the exact time of the ERTS-1 pass over Delaware Bay, pleasure craft were organized to obtain samples of the entire test site.

On the ERTS-1 pass of July second, scientists were stationed at three public boat launches along the Bay to hand out sampling packets to interested boaters. The packets contained two litre sampling bottles, a map, data card, and a pen. The boaters were asked to fill the two bottles between 11 and 11:15 a.m., mark their location on the map, and fill out the data card. 49 packets were handed out of which 40 were returned (82%). Only four of the 40 were not in the allotted time range. This gave 36 real time data points covering approximately 30 nautical miles. The samples are being analyzed for sediment concentration, particle size, and salinity. Participating boaters will receive a copy of an ERTS image of the Delaware Bay and a summary report of the project. Because of the success of the project, future use of pleasure boaters is being planned.